

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee of the Whole operates on the rule that so long as there is a quorum present, action is taken by the majority of those present and voting. Therefore, if the quorum is present, if the delegates abstain, it would not have any direct effect on the action on the amendment.

Does any delegate desire to speak in favor for one minute?

Delegate Macdonald.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: I would like to support the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may speak.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: I think the majority recommendation tries to obtain a laudable objective, namely to get the voters' attention on local elections. But I doubt that you can legislate enthusiasm and interest.

Nevertheless, I see in the majority report practical difficulties. It does not lend itself to the process of election of judges who serve locally, that is judges who serve on the district court and supreme court level. They are county officials and do not fit into the framework which the majority here proposes. It would also prevent any county which wants to have its governing body elected on a standard term basis from doing so. It has too many practical difficulties, it is too rigid, and I am going to support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will recognize a delegate desiring to speak for one minute in opposition to the amendment.

Delegate Boyce.

DELEGATE BOYCE: Personal privilege, not opposition.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your privilege.

DELEGATE BOYCE: I would like the privilege of changing because previously I said I would vote against it. I would go along with Delegate Gallagher and say I am going to abstain, and then afterward when we see what the counties wish to do we can reconsider and then put Baltimore's vote in the place where it ought to be.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Raley.

DELEGATE RALEY: I do want to add one sponsor's name to the amendment just submitted by Delegates Raley, Hanson and Scanlan. We would like to add the name of E. J. Clarke.

THE CHAIRMAN: We can add that when it is submitted.

Delegate Sybert.

DELEGATE SYBERT: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the wording of the proposed amendment will change the section to read as follows, in line 22 of section 7: "which time State and county officials except in Baltimore City." Is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair is advised by the Clerk that the words "except Baltimore City" were added after the word "county." It makes a very awkward phrase.

The way line 22 would read as modified, if the amendment is adopted, is "State and county except Baltimore City officials shall be elected."

DELEGATE SYBERT: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that, if the sponsor of the amendment would agree, that the wording be changed thus so as to be intelligible.

I take it that the election of state officials in Baltimore City is not to be deferred for a year after state officials are elected in counties, so I assume that the sponsor means this: "State officials and county officials except in Baltimore City shall be elected."

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes, did you hear the suggestion?

DELEGATE BYRNES: Yes, I did.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you accept it?

DELEGATE BYRNES: I would.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection?

Delegate Henderson.

DELEGATE HENDERSON. The question was raised about the judges. I think they should be the subject of another exception, and I had prepared an amendment. I do not want to confuse the issue here, but I want to make sure that that amendment will be in order, because judges, under the judicial branch article, are elected at two-year and eight-year intervals. I do not want them to be frozen in here by use of the words "public officials."

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair has not seen the amendment, but as it understands you, the amendment would be in order as a subsequent amendment.

Delegate Byrnes, as the Chair understands your modification, it would be after the word "officials", rather than after the word "State", that you would add the